



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 70

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 906

Senate, March 12, 2015

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CREATING THE INCARCERATED VETERANS REINTEGRATION COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) (a) There is established
- 2 an Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Council within the Department
- 3 of Correction. The council shall consist of the following members: (1)
- 4 The Commissioner of Correction, or the commissioner's designee; (2)
- 5 the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, or the commissioner's designee;
- 6 (3) one representative from the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning
- 7 Division within the Office of Policy and Management; (4) one
- 8 representative from the Labor Department specializing in veterans'
- 9 workforce development; (5) one representative of the Connecticut
- 10 Veterans' Legal Center, appointed by the Governor; (6) one
- 11 representative of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial
- 12 Branch; and (7) two veterans' service officers, one of whom shall be
- 13 appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of
- 14 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to

15 military and veterans' affairs and one of whom shall be appointed by
 16 the House chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General
 17 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to military and
 18 veterans' affairs. All appointed members shall serve in accordance
 19 with the provisions of section 4-1a of the general statutes. The council
 20 shall appoint annually, from among its members, a chairperson, a vice-
 21 chairperson and a secretary. The council may make rules for the
 22 conduct of its affairs. The council shall meet at least six times per year.

23 (b) The council shall (1) review strategies and procedures for
 24 facilitating the reintegration of incarcerated veterans into the
 25 community; (2) measure the outcomes of such strategies and
 26 procedures; and (3) advise the Commissioner of Correction concerning
 27 goals and recommendations for the successful reintegration of
 28 incarcerated veterans into the community.

29 (c) Not later than January 15, 2016, and annually thereafter, the
 30 council shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
 31 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
 32 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
 33 military and veterans' affairs. Such report shall include, but need not
 34 be limited to, recommendations concerning the reintegration of
 35 incarcerated veterans into the community.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1(4), "Department of Labor" was changed to "Labor Department" for the purposes of accuracy.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill does not result in a fiscal impact as it requires the commissioners of Correction and Veteran's Affairs, or their designees, as well as members of the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, a representative from the Labor Department, and representatives from several private or not for profit entities to study and provide recommendations related to the successful reintegration of incarcerated veterans.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 906*****AN ACT CREATING THE INCARCERATED VETERANS REINTEGRATION COUNCIL.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes an eight-member Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Council within the Department of Correction (DOC). The council must (1) review strategies and procedures for facilitating reintegration of incarcerated veterans into the community, (2) measure the outcomes of the strategies and procedures, and (3) advise the DOC commissioner on goals and recommendations to successfully reintegrate incarcerated veterans.

The council must consist of:

1. the DOC and veterans' affairs commissioners, or their designees;
2. an Office of Policy and Management representative from the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division;
3. a Labor Department representative specializing in veterans' workforce development;
4. a Connecticut Veterans' Legal Center representative, appointed by the governor;
5. a Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division representative; and
6. two veterans' service officers, one appointed by each Veterans' Affairs Committee chairperson.

Appointed members serve at the appointing authority's pleasure. The council must (1) once a year appoint a chairperson, vice-

chairperson, and secretary from among its members and (2) meet at least six times per year. It may also make rules to conduct its affairs.

The bill requires the council to annually submit a report, starting January 15, 2016, to the Veterans' Affairs Committee. The report must include recommendations on reintegrating incarcerated veterans into the community.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/03/2015)